THE

FUNERAL

OF THE

Good old Cauſe:

OR,

A *Covenant* of *Both Houſes of Parliament*

Againſt

The *Solemn LEAGUE* and *COVENANT.*

LONDON:

Printed for *R. Royſton*, 1661.

Die Lunæ 20. Maii 1661.

THe Lords in Parliament assembled, having considered of a Paper sent unto them from the House of Commons, for burning of the Instrument or Writing, called, The Solemn League or Covenant, by the hands of the common Hangman; Do Order, That the said Instrument or Writing, called, The Solemn League and Covenant, be burned by the hands of the Common Hangman in the New Palace at Westminster, in Cheapside, and before the Old Exchange, on Wednesday the Twenty second of this instant May. And that the said Covenant be forthwith taken off the Record in the House of Peers, and in all other Courts and places where the same is recorded; And that all Copies thereof be taken down out of all Churches, Chappels, and other publick places in England and Wales, and in the Town of Barwick upon Tweede where the same are set up.

Jo. Browne Cleric. Parliamentorum.

BEfore this Order passed the Lords House, the manner of giving sentence upon the Covenant took up much debate in both Houses. Many learned Speeches were made against it, very little said in

defence of it. It will be needleſs to give an account of all the Motions made before the Condemnation of the Covenant: Some being for the ſending the Baſtard-child to his own Father, Scotland; *Others, for the hanging it up upon all the Gallowſes, and Market-places within the Cities and Towns of* England. *I ſhall only give the Reader an account of one Speech made by a Member, in theſe following words, as it was delivered unto me.*

Mr. Speaker,

I Perceive you are now *Covenanting* againſt the *Covenant*; entring into a new one, in proteſting the *deſtruction* of the *Old*. He would have deſerv'd the name of a bold *Brittain*, who ſome years paſt, had made as many *Objections* againſt the *Covenant*, as have been now delivered in this *Houſe*: And poſſibly he may be *condemned* with it, who ſhall *plead* any thing for it. However, *Sir*, Give me leave to take the freedom of a *true-born Engliſh-man*, who conceive my ſelf *choſe* by my *Countrey*, to *expreſs* my *ſenſe* freely in *Parliament*. Sir, to ſhew you how *un-intereſſed* a perſon I am to *ſpeak* in this *buſineſs*, let me *aſſure* you, I never took the *Covenant*; nor ever approved

proved the *preſſing* of it upon others. Had there appeared no other *exceptions* againſt it, I had cauſe enough to diſlike the *impoſing* it upon the *Kingdom*, by the ſole *Authority* of an *Ordinance* of *Parliament*; a *Preſident* without a *Preſident* in this caſe. *Oaths* are not to be *dallied with*, but to be eſteemed *Sacred*, not to be *allowed* of without the *Authentick warrant* of an *Act* of *Parliament*. Sir, If we look on the *Original Deſigners* & *Contrivers* of the *Covenant*, we ſhall without much *diſpute* fix it on the *Scots*, (poſſibly with the *conſent* of ſome *Grandees* here). Out of *Scotland* it came. The *ends* of their *preſſing* it upon us is *obvious*; To *engage* us with them, (in the *countenance* of a *ſeditious*, *factious*, and (in my ſenſe) *rebellious War*, againſt our lawful *Soveraign* his late *Majeſty*, that *bleſſed* Saint and *Martyr*, now with *God*: (whoſe *Memory* cannot be too much *honoured* by all good men). Their *deſign* being to *diminiſh* not only the *Greatneſs*, and *limit* the *Power* of *Eccleſiaſtical Perſons*, but wholly to *extirpate root* and *branch*, that moſt *Ancient Government* of the *Church* by *Biſhops*, under whoſe *umbrage* and *protection* our *Anceſtors lived* to ſee ſo many *happy dayes*; and, it was juſtly feared,

by endevouring irreligiously to *abolish* that holy *Order* (now so happily *restored*), they intended to make a *prey* of their *Lands*, which were afterwards *sold* and *divided* by *sacrilegious hands*; and by the sad consequence of such proceedings, His *Majesties just Prerogative* was certainly *lessened*. At the *end* of the *War*, when God (for the *punishment* of the *sins* of the *Nation*) had given *victory* to the *Parliaments Forces* over his *Majesties*, those then in *power* pressed the taking of it upon the *Cavaliers*, who were to *compound*; and *forced* them (as they since confessed) to *take* it against their *Consciences*, alleadging with more *wit* then *piety*, that they had rather *trust God* with their *Souls*, then the *Parliament* with their *Estates*: In case they *refused*, they were not admitted to *compound*; but, I hope upon their *repentance*, God in *mercy* has *pardoned* them, their *taking* the *Covenant*, and their wicked *Declaration*, when they *took* it. I believe, Sir, the *Covenant* has occasioned much *mischief* and *inconvenience* to these *Nations*: But, Sir, give me leave to observe this to you, and so far to be patiently *heard* in the behalf of the *Covenant*, which cannot *plead* for it *self*: That it has

has of late contributed to the *happy Restauration* of his *Majesty*; which Assertion I thus prove to you: When several *arguments* were used by *Persons* of *Honour* to many considerable *Citizens* and others, for their endeavours to *restore* his *Majesty*, this at last prevailed; That they were *engaged* by their *Covenant* to *restore him*. And, Sir, had it been in the *power*, as we hope it was in the *wills*, of the *Engagers* to observe their *Covenant*, the last *King* had not *suffered*, nor his *Family* been *exiled*. Truly, Sir, I should, if I thought I might prevail, *beg* for a Reprieve of *Sentence* upon the *poor despised Covenant*, (or at least, an *honourable Interment*, or *silent Burial*) which I can hardly presume to do against the *current stream* of the *House*. Upon this consideration, that I cannot apprehend such a *condemnation* of the *Covenant*, and the *Covenant-takers* (which to many may seem *harsh*, if not *scandalous*, to the *Protestant Religion* here and abroad) any way conducing to the *advantage* of the *King* or his *Subjects*; but, on the other side, will much *trouble* and *disquier* the *spirits* of many *honest persons*, who were very *instrumental* in *restoring* to his *Rights* our *Gracious*

cious *Soveraign*; whom *God* long, long, long *preserve* to *rule* over us, so *Excellent* a *Prince*, hardly to be *parallel'd*, never *exceeded* in any *Age*, being the greatest *temporal blessing* to be *desired*, and a most *excellent effect* of the *Prayers* of *good people*. I say, Sir, they have much *contributed* to the *Restauration* of his *Majesties Rights*, and to our *Liberties*, I mean, the *Presbyterian Party*, who ought in this respect to be *kindly & tenderly dealt with*; as they were *largely* promised before the *King's happy return*. Many *thousands*, of whom, I *charitable* presume, had very *honest intentions* in the *taking* of it, and in their *desires* of *keeping* it, for the *good* of *King* and *People*. Sir, I crave your pardon for troubling you so long; I shall now end with a *Quære* instead of a *Motion*, wherein I desire the *declared sense* of the *House*, Whether the *Covenant* be not *comprehended* in, and ought not to have the *benefit* of the *Act* of *Oblivion*, and if you shall please to put the *Question*, I shall give my *Vote* in the *Affirmative*.

Upon Wednesday the Covenant was burnt according to the Order of Parliament.

The End.